Claims 21-26 are pending. All claims have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs. No prior art rejections have been cited. Applicant requests reconsideration based upon the amended Claims 21-26.

Applicant has now amended Claims 21-26 to more definitely recite the claimed subject matter as a "frame structure" for a leak detector and not as a leak detector itself. It is believed this change should cure each of the Section 112 rejections and withdrawal of same is respectfully requested.

In summary, it is believed the above-captioned patent application is now in an allowable condition and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

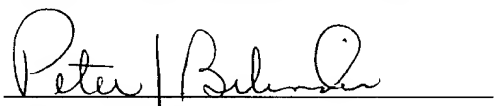
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI LLP

Dated: May 20, 2003

By: 

Peter J. Bilinski
Reg. No. 35067

PJB/sca
Telephone: (315) 425-9000

Customer No.: 
20874

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

In the Claims:

Claims 21-26 have been amended as follows:

21. (Amended) A frame structure for a leak detector, said frame structure comprising:

an upper frame and a lower frame onto each of which a film is stretched thereupon, each of the upper frame and the lower frame further comprising an outer subframe and an inner subframe each made from a synthetic material between which said films are fastened wherein each outer subframe of said upper and lower frames, respectively, includes a recess having disposed therein a corresponding inner subframe thereby defining a test chamber between said upper and lower frames for an incoming test gas sample entering said defined test chamber and in which said films are at least one of adhered and screw-fastened with the frame portions onto which they are respectively stretched and in which each recess is disposed in a region of a corresponding outer subframe facing away from the test chamber and wherein one of said inner subframes is equipped with a lip seal, said lower frame being positioned onto a margin of a plate-form bottom, said upper frame including a support provided with a steel profile, said steel profile being angled and at least partially encompassing said upper frame from above and from the outside thereof, said upper frame being fastened on said steel profile so as to float axially relative to said lower frame wherein the steel profile also partially encompasses said lower frame when the defined test chamber is closed, said upper and lower frames each being circularly formed and comprised of polyamide, said upper and lower frames being connected at one end across an articulation.

22. (Amended) A [leak detector] frame structure as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the film of the lower frame is equipped with a central connection port and a line detachably coupled with said connection port.

23. (Amended) A [leak detector] frame structure as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the central connection port is a tube section made from a synthetic material.

24. (Amended) A [leak detector] frame structure as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the detachably coupled line in the region facing the central connection port is a synthetic corrugated tube encompassing said connection port when a connection is made.

25. (Amended) A [leak detector] frame structure as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the synthetic material tube section and/or corrugated tube are comprised of polyamide.

26. (Amended) A [leak detector] frame structure as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the upper and lower frames are under the effect of a spring device whose force acts continuously in the direction of opening of said upper and lower frames.